



## Bio- Security and Fairs What You Need to Know

Fairs create an environment that results in the intermingling of people from different backgrounds as well as animals from various locations and different species. Many of these situations are counter to what 4-H producers have been taught in herd and flock health management.

While fairs provide an opportunity for youth to participate in animal oriented group activities, they also represent a potential threat to the health of any livestock herd or flock and the financial well-being of an industry.

To protect the health and well being of all animals and the exhibitors, the following points should be followed:

- Meet or exceed all health requirements for all animals as established by the state veterinarian.
- Bio-security is one of the reasons for health inspections. Have your animals checked by a veterinarian regularly and follow a your veterinarians suggested health program for exhibited animals
- Booster vaccinations should be given as recommended by your veterinarians prior to exhibiting animals
- Request a health certificate
- Leave unhealthy or contagious animals at home. Public settings such as fairs are not the place for animals with ringworm, club lamb fungus, warts, eye infections, draining wounds, respiratory diseases and other contagious diseases.
- Provide adequate feed and water during exhibition.
- Keep housing facility clean of manure and waste bedding.
- Make sure animals have adequate space and proper ventilation.
- Use your own barn cleaning equipment such as pitch forks, shovels, etc. and keep them clean. This goes for show equipment such as clippers and combs as well. Avoid sharing equipment with other exhibitors.
- Practice good personal hygiene. Disinfect boots and equipment often, as well as wash your hands frequently.
- Change or wash clothes and shoes worn at the fair before returning home to work with other animals.
- Be cautious as to who has contact with your animals. Discourage fair visitors from petting or feeding your animals. If so, encourage them to wash their hands.
- Be on guard for visitors that might intend harm to exhibited animals and report suspicious people or activities to the show security.

### **After the Fair**

If you take your show animals off the farm and expose them to other animals, there is also the possibility of spreading germs or diseases.

After the fair, when you return your animals to your farm, strictly isolating exhibited animals from other animals for at least two weeks.

Thoroughly clean to remove all soil and manure from your equipment and trailer, rinse to remove soap, then disinfect.

Exhibiting livestock is an enjoyable and educational experience for most young people. Following a few simple guidelines will help keep you and your livestock healthy during and following the show season.

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